

Into The Mouths of Babes

NC Dental Screening & Varnish Project



Spring 2007

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“But They’re Just Baby Teeth!”

As a medical provider, how many times have you heard this phrase? It is fairly common for parents to question the importance of the primary teeth since “they are going to fall out anyway.” Primary teeth may be temporary, but they have important functions that contribute to children’s overall health. Most importantly, children need healthy teeth to chew nutritious food! Early childhood caries (tooth decay) has been linked to failure to

thrive syndrome. Primary teeth affect speech development and jaw formation as well. Another function of primary teeth is to maintain space and guide permanent teeth into place. You may need to remind parents that some children do not lose all of their primary teeth until they are in middle school (age 12). That’s quite a few years that children need their healthy, well functioning primary teeth contributing to their overall health.



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IMB Advisory Committee Recommends Duraphat Fluoride Varnish

One of the most common questions asked of IMB staff about fluoride varnish is ‘Why does the IMB program recommend Duraphat?’ It is a very good question and the recommendation is based on science. Duraphat is the only brand of fluoride varnish with published clinical trials showing effectiveness. It has been used in Europe, Scandinavia, and Canada since the 1960’s and there are approximately 200 studies documented in the literature. Over 40 of these are clinical trials; no other brand of fluoride varnish has published clinical trials showing effectiveness at this time.



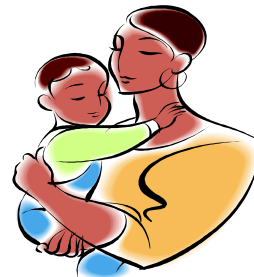
New Codes for Oral Preventive Procedure

As of January 1 2007, CDT codes for the 3-part oral preventive procedure changed. This information, published in the January 2007 North Carolina Medicaid Bulletin, can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Additional upcoming changes include a reduction in the time interval requirement between procedures from 90 to 60 days, as well as extending the age of eligibility from the 3rd birthday to 3 years 6 months.

There is still a maximum of six procedures from the time of tooth eruption until age 3 ½. Medicaid is hoping this change will enable children to receive all six of the procedures for which they are eligible. At the present time children receive an average of two procedures. Data show that children receiving 4, 5, or 6 procedures before the third birthday have 40% fewer dental treatment needs.

Please watch your monthly Medicaid bulletin for information about when these upcoming changes will take place.



Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers

American Dental Association Code Updates for the Physician Fluoride Varnish (Into the Mouths of Babes) Program

Effective with date of service Jan. 1, 2007, the dental procedure codes used for the Physician Fluoride Varnish (Into the Mouths of Babes) Program have been changed. These deletions and additions are a result of the *Current Dental Terminology* (CDT) 2007 American Dental Association code updates.

The following procedure codes were end-dated effective with date of service Dec. 31, 2006.

End-Dated CDT Code	Description
D0150	Comprehensive oral evaluation – new or established patient
D0120	Periodic oral evaluation – established patient
D1203	Topical application of fluoride (including prophylaxis) – child
D1330	Oral hygiene instructions

The following procedure codes were added to replace the above deleted codes effective with date of service Jan. 1, 2007.

CDT 2007 Code	Description and Limitations	Reimbursement Rate
D0145	Oral evaluation for a patient under 3 years of age and counseling with primary caregiver * replacing procedure codes D0150, D0120, and D1330 * must be billed in conjunction with D1206 * limited to recipients under age 3 * allowed once every 90 days * limited to six times prior to the recipient's third birthday	\$38.07
D1206	Topical fluoride varnish; therapeutic application for moderate to high-caries-risk patients * replacing procedure code D1203 * must be billed in conjunction with D0145 * limited to recipients under age 3 * allowed once every 90 days * limited to six times prior to the recipient's third birthday	\$15.44

For questions regarding the coverage criteria or billing guidelines, contact the Division of Medical Assistance Dental Program at 919-855-4280.

Dental Program
DMA, 919-855-4280